

# Balnarring Preschool & Infant Welfare Association

Learning and Living with nature



## Presidents Report - October 2017

Welcome back from the school holidays all.

Another super busy month at the kinder with all the excitement of end of year activities and also the preparation of next year's enrolments and our 4yr old kinder children heading on to Primary School.

Sending a big thank you to all that helped, supported and attended the Bundjil's nest Community information day. Sharing and bringing this closer to the community as a whole is always a big vision of the kinder, it's amazing teachers and committee members going forward in the future.

The kinder was a buzz on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October with a visit from The Narragunnawali Awards Team as Balnarring Kinder has been selected as a National finalist for our wonderful program and the wonderful work they are doing to progress reconciliation.

A little reminder that fees are now overdue. If you need some assistance with this please don't hesitate in letting us know.

Each Committee member over this year has had a go at writing their own Acknowledgement to country and we would like to share them with you. Here is Catherine Peachey's;

*We would like to acknowledge the Boon Wurrung people and the land that we learn and play on. We would also like to thank them for their stories, heritage and knowledge which allow the teachers of Balnarring preschool to pass onto our children and community. We pay our respects to their elders, past and present.*

Jarna & Caroline



ID# 229860 / BALNARRING BAG 2017

**Have you ordered a bag? Final orders due 29<sup>th</sup> October**

## Djeembana news - October 2017



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Welcome to term four- my how time flies by as I get older!

We have hosted people from Singapore and China as part of a program being run by Monash University. This has given Ann and I the opportunity to share the preschools philosophy and practice with the hope we have inspired these people to reflect and take something they have seen back to their countries.

The Somers school camp visit was interesting for the children and the parents who joined us - thanks Shalon for sharing this space and the creatures with us.



Mums night provided us with lots of smiling faces and special times shared with the children. The pizzas were yummy. Thank you to all who were able to join in with this night.

The Reconciliation team assessing the Narragunnawali award visited the centre on Monday. Three judges spoke with staff, children and parents to gain insight into our programs and connection with First Peoples culture and learning. Being a part of this process provides us with an opportunity for First Peoples to observe what we are doing and then offer us feedback and hopefully suggestions of how we can develop our practices further. The award will be announced in Canberra on the 27<sup>th</sup> November, Ann and I will attend a half day of professional development and then the awards in the afternoon. I was very impressed with how the group managed having 7 extra people and cameras in the room. They just got on with their day and chatted with the visitors sharing their learning. Special thanks to the parents who shared their thoughts through interviews and conversations with the judges – fingers crossed!!!!

**Beach session – We have been asked to please not park at the shop those spaces are for the clientele**

**This term will be very busy.**

### Coming events

**17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>** - Photographer

**23<sup>rd</sup> October** - Wish Ann all the best at the award ceremony



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-Tom (Remy's dad) is going to share bee keeping with us. Around 9am

- Sketch'n'tell cost to families, Lynton will tell a story while drawing with chalk (see his art work on the wall in the main room) approximately 11:30

- Families are invited to share these experiences

**24<sup>th</sup> October** - ACECQA presentation of the excellence rating. Please arrive at 11:30 with lunch and a plate of food to share. The session for the children will officially start at 12:30 as usual.

**25<sup>th</sup> October** Children's twilight gathering 4-7pm at Hastings foreshore. See separate flyer sent home last week

**27<sup>th</sup> October** – Bundjil Nest community event. See separate flyer in last month's newsletter. Please invite friends and family to this event.

**1<sup>st</sup> November Dolphin Institute- Meet at 9:00** at the institute at Hastings Marina. The session starts at 9:30 and finishes at 11:30. Families are welcome to join us. Then we are going to walk along the board walk to Jacks Beach. Collect children from **Jacks Beach at 1pm**. Children to bring morning tea and lunch. Families are also welcome to join us for the walk just ensure you have transport at the other end! Cost for this day will be \$5. A separate notice will be sent home next week.

**School transition - Balnarring Primary school.** Balnarring school teachers visiting Mon 30<sup>th</sup> Oct. The visits to the school start the week after, you should have received these dates at the information night. On the visit days you will sign your child out at 12 and then go to the school and sign in with the school. I will join the visit once all the children have been collected from kindergarten.

**Somers Primary school teachers are visiting on Monday 13th Nov**

**14<sup>th</sup> November - Grandparents day.** We invite grandparents to join us at kindergarten at 1:30. Children still arrive at 12:30.

**SAVE THE DATE - 15<sup>th</sup> December:** This is the date we are going to camp the night at Balnarring Beach as our end of year celebrations. Weelam group are going to join us. More details to follow closer to the date.

Karen and Lisa



## **Weelam group: News and reflections – Term 4 October 2017**

Term Four is here and slowly it is feeling more like Bareep (spring). The children have returned taller, more confident and are engaging actively with each other, the experiences and the challenges we create everyday for them. We



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have been sharing our holiday experiences with the group, making books about our holiday adventures and returning to Bush camp was a highlight of our first week back. Weelam group have become a very special group of friends and we are very happy to be back together again. Congratulations to Bella and her family. We welcomed her new baby brother Kai to Weelam group this week- everyone was excited to finally meet Kai.



*\*painting a friends portrait*



*\* making a Bundjil Kite*



*\*making cookies, they were a special treat.*



## Hand washing: We are trying to be a hand washing champion:

### How to wash

Hand washing is an important step in keeping us healthy. Help your child build good hand washing habits by demonstrating Handy's 5 steps for clean hands below.



#### Hand washing for kids

Liquid hand soap spreads and lathers quickly with simple rubbing and water, making it easy for kids to do a good job. Make hand washing fun by having kids time their 20 second hand washing (Step 3) using a watch, or singing the "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" song.



Wet hands under running water. Add soap.



Rub hands together to make bubbles.



Rub soapy bubbles all around for 20 seconds  
-on hands, wrists,  
between fingers and under  
fingernails.



Rinse hands under running water.



Dry hands well with a clean towel.

## Bundjil Nest project: Save the date 27<sup>th</sup> October to see our Bundjil's fly



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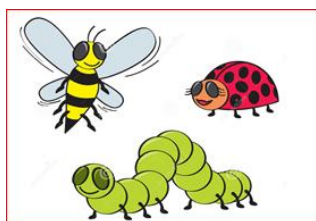
## Learning and Living with nature



*\*\*Please take a look at our displays and the books we have made about our learning journey with Christobel our Artist in Residence last term- see the Learning and Living nature display board. Shhh...we are now making a gift for Christobel using the skills we learnt using the glue guns and wood burners. This present will be presented to Christobel at the Bundjil Nest event on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>.*

### Our interest in plants has continued into our vegetable garden:

Our vegetable garden is looking amazing with many vegetables and herbs for us to taste, eat and cook with- real and pretend. We have also been exploring the question, **Who has been eating our celery?** This question arose when we picked some celery for our morning tea and discovered that there were holes on the stalks. On closer inspection we found a small slug!! This discovery has lead to us making 'bugs' to scare away the creatures eating our vegetables, and beginning to explore which bugs and animals are good to have in our garden. Take a look at our garden, we are wondering how tall our beans will grow.



### Reflections from our Learning and living with nature experiences:

Our interest in creatures continued at Bush camp this week when the children watched the caterpillars eating the gum leaves and they wondered who was digging holes in the dirt.



*\*Look who is eating the leaf?*



*\* We followed the map*



*\* Making rivers in the sand together*

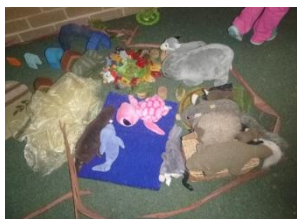


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**Reflecting on our holidays:** Thank you to all who have bought their child's white folder back after the holiday break. The children have been sharing their holiday stories with each other. We have also been drawing and making books about our holidays. Please return your child's white folder so we can add these to their Folders.

## Excursion to Somers school camp Environmental centre:

We were very excited to go to the Somers school camp Environmental centre in the last week of term three. Big thanks to the team there who made us very welcome and shared with us their knowledge about sea creatures and the guinea pigs as well. We enjoyed our stroll along the beach to Coolart after morning tea. The children were surprised to see their families waiting for them with their lunch, everyone was happy to rest on the lawn and enjoy a picnic together. Thank you the families who walked along with us to Coolart.



*\*the rock wall offered a new challenge    \*we saw a real Port Jackson shark and cared for the guinea pigs.*

## PMP:



### **Dates for PMP this term:**

- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov.
- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Dec.

***\*Come join the fun and support the children to extend their skills.***



## Important Dates:

**Photographer Tuesday 18th Oct. and 19<sup>th</sup> (at Bush camp/ Beach)** Kate will be with us to take the children's individual photos on these days.

**Lynton the Artist will join us on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct.** It is Lynton's work that is framed around our Preschool. Lynton will tell stories as he shows the children how he draws and creates his images of animals and birds.



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**Dolphin Institute Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov:** We are currently planning an excursion to the Dolphin Institute at Hastings, please save the date and more information will follow very soon.

- **Melbourne cup holiday Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov - No Preschool session.**
- **Statewide School orientation day: Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - No Preschool.**
- **Weelam group celebration and party day: Tues 19<sup>th</sup> Dec**

*(This will be a longer session; an invitation will go out for families to join us).*

**\*\* we have many more special times being planned, more information to follow soon, keep watching out for notices and messages in and next to the roll book as you sign in and out each session.**

**Reflections on Being a Parent:** All parents have different parenting styles and different thoughts and ideas may be what works for you and your family, while others do not feel right or these reflect the type of parent you want to be for your children. These are just some thoughts to reflect on and consider, especially if you are thinking what else can I do or I have tried everything!! These thoughts are framed around the concept of compassionate parenting. Remember you are always learning on the job as a parent *(my thanks to all specialists who have inspired these thoughts).*



Compassionate parents are able to see beneath the surface of their children's behavior to get at the deeper motivations. They empower children to control their own behavior by teaching them to regulate their motivations and understand their feelings, and how this impacts others. Listen to your children as much as possible, let solutions to problems come from them. As they mature, your job is less to give answers and more and more to ask the questions that lead them to solutions. Take care to respond to positive emotions as well as negative behaviors. Otherwise, you set up the habit of using trouble to get attention. Compassionate attention to expressions of interest and enjoyment are opportunities to develop positive emotional response in children. Discipline must be considered with positive parental motivation to protect, nurture, encourage, influence, guide, or cooperate. Remember changing behaviours can be a long term project and you are often all learning together. Try to focus on what behaviours you want to occur, not what you don't want. Give short, clear instructions. Try using a quiet voice sometimes and sometimes humour can be just what is required to save the day. Remember behavior is the way children communicate; ask what are they telling me?

*We look forward to seeing everyone at the Bundjil nest event and please join us in the program whenever you can- we are now in term 4 and sadly it will go all too quickly. We look forward to sharing these special times with all our families, any questions please ask.*

*Kind regards, Michele and Ann*



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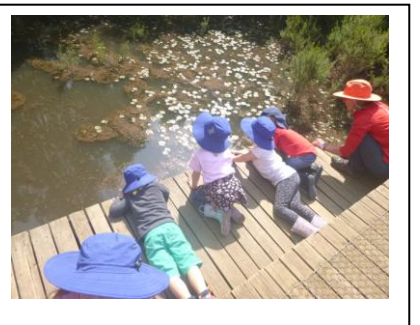




### Manameet and Gareeal News - October 2017

We celebrated a lovely sunny end of Term 3 down at the wetlands. A change to our Coolart plans, but the pond was full of tadpoles and we thought it was too great a learning opportunity for the children to miss.

The children loved fishing for tadpoles and quickly discovered they were quick! They took their time to watch them in the water and experiment with different ways to catch them. Children shared ideas and listened to peers and adults' suggestions. The ones we caught we investigated up close in the tubs before gently putting them back into their home to grow. We noticed that they were very small, a dark black / brown colour and had a long tail but we couldn't see any legs on them like frogs have. We wondered when they might get legs and turn into frogs. We learnt about how to be safe near the water and followed the instructions so we could all enjoy our time by the pond.



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We enjoyed our snacks out in nature. Manameet ate with the tadpoles and we found a lovely shady spot near the pond under trees with Gareeal. We noticed when we were quiet that we could hear the frogs in the distance.

Whilst walking on Boon Wurrung Country we talked about the changes we could see and hear. We noticed daisies in the field next to kinder, that the witchety finger tree was still alive even though it had fallen down a 'long' time ago and that the muddy puddles had almost gone. In the wetlands we also found something that sparked our interest. Was it a nest for a bird? Was it an old fire? Was it a house? We shared our thoughts together and decided to leave the pile of sticks and twigs as we found it.

We will carry on with our learning of tadpoles in Term 4 this Friday in kinder. The second week of Term 4 we will go for another walk to the wetlands to see how the tadpoles have changed!

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wetland Walk - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

ACECQUA Award Presentation at kinder– Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 12:00pm

Manameet and Gareeal Photos – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Bundjil Nest Event – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 5:30pm (all welcome)

Wetland Walk Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November (depending on snake sightings)

60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration – 19<sup>th</sup> November 11am-3pm at kinder

AGM – November 21<sup>st</sup> 6:30pm

Last Day of Term – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December (Coolart)



### Stay and Play

Thank you to the families who have again stayed and played over the past couple of months and / or joined us on the wetlands walk. Your presence and contribution to the program and session is much appreciated by children and staff! Term 4s roster is at the sign in book.

### Thanks Jill and Cath



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**Please STOP at the Occasional Child care centre:**



**Message from Ros...** "Please take extreme care when exiting the car park and out the drive way onto Frankston- Flinders road. Parents and children coming to the MCHC and Occasional Care use the path that crosses the exit. A Pedestrian crossing sign will be installed by the council. In the meantime please STOP before the path and cross with extreme care and caution. Thank you if we all do this we will ensure the safety of all our children".

## **Boon Wurrung Language**

**Bareep - Spring**

**Yinga - Sing**

**Gurnbak - fish**

**Barraeemal - Emu**

**Yurran – Sugar glider**

**Guyeem – Kangaroo**

**Walert - Possum**

*Permission has been granted to by Elder Fay Stewart-Muir and N' arweet Carolyn Briggs.*

## **PARENT LIBRARY**

In the foyer there are assortments of books covering various topics that are available for parents to borrow.

One section is dedicated to the developing knowledge about the culture of the First Peoples. If you are interesting in learning about the history of the Aborigines and sharing stories with your children then please take a look at these books.



## **SEEKING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

In 2018 the Bundjil nest community event is being replaced by a full day festival – **Womindjeka Balnarring Ngargee (festival)**. The festival committee comprises people from the community and are looking for more people. As you can imagine this is a huge event to plan and run. The following sub committees are looking for more help: Children's area; entertainment; food; market area; advertising; wellness area; fundraising; general assistance.

Can you help out? Do you know someone else who might be interested?

**Next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> October 6.30pm at the kindergarten**

If you are interested in being involved, please see Karen or Ann.